Public Law 97-287
97th Congress

An Act

To authorize the exchange of certain land held by the Navajo Tribe and the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

Oct. 6, 1982
[H.R. 3589]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and to the provisions of this Act, the Navajo Tribe is authorized to exchange any surface interests of such Tribe in the lands described in subsection (b) for surface interests of the United States in lands described in subsection (c) which are approximately equal in value to such tribal interests.

Navajo Tribe.
Land exchange.

(b) Lands located within the following New Mexico principal meridian townships are described in this subsection:

Township 8 north, range 12 west;
Township 8 north, range 11 west;
Township 7 north, range 12 west;
Township 7 north, range 11 west;
Township 6 north, range 12 west;
Township 7 north, range 5 west;
Township 6 north, range 5 west;
Township 6 north, range 4 west;
Township 6 north, range 3 west; and
Township 7 north, range 3 west.

(c) The lands described in this subsection are the lands withdrawn for exchange by Public Land Order 5721 (Federal Register, May 2, 1980, pages 29295-29297) other than the following lands:

Township 23 north, range 13 west, New Mexico principal meridian: section 3, southeast quarter; section 13, southeast quarter; and section 28, southwest quarter;

Township 16 north, range 10 west, New Mexico principal meridian: section 6, southeast quarter; and section 18, northeast quarter; and

Township 22 north, range 10 west, New Mexico principal meridian: section 16, north half and southwest quarter;

Lands in trust.

SEC. 2. Any interests in lands acquired by the Navajo Tribe under section 1(a) shall be held by the Secretary of the Interior in trust for the benefit and use of the Navajo Tribe.

Easements or rights-of-way.

SEC. 3. (a) Lands received by the Navajo Tribe in an exchange under section 1(a) shall be subject to such easements or rights-of-way as the Secretary of the Interior may create in order to provide necessary access to lands adjacent to such lands. The Secretary of the Interior may create such an easement or right of-way only after he has consulted the governing body of the Navajo Tribe with regard to the location, scope, and use of such easement or right-of-way.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall affect—

(1) the mineral interests of any person, or

(2) any easement or other rights of any person (other than the United States or the Navajo Tribe),

in lands exchanged under section 1(a) which existed prior to the enactment of this Act. The development of such interests and the exercise of such rights may only be controlled by the Navajo Tribe or the Secretary of the Interior to the same extent that such development or exercise could have been controlled by the Secretary of the Interior prior to the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. (a) No exchange shall be made under section 1(a) if, at the time such exchange is proposed, the value of the interests in lands described in section 1(b) which are proposed to be exchanged exceeds an amount equal to 125 percent of the value of interests in lands described in section 1(c) which are proposed to be exchanged.

(b)(1) If, at the time of an exchange under section 1(a), the value of the interests in lands described in section 1(b) which are exchanged under section 1(a) exceeds the value of the interests in lands described in section 1(c) which are exchanged under section 1(a), the Secretary of the Interior shall pay to the Navajo Tribe an amount equal to such excess value.

(2) If, at the time of any exchange under section 1(a), the value of the interests in lands described in section 1(c) which are exchanged under section 1(a) exceeds the value of the interests in lands described in section 1(b) which are exchanged under section 1(a), the Navajo Tribe shall pay to the United States an amount equal to such excess value.

Appropriation authorization.

SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of section 4(b)(1).

Approved October 6, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3589:

HOUSE REPORT: No. 97-616 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):
July 19, considered and passed House.
Aug. 20, considered and passed Senate, amended.
Sept. 23, House concurred in Senate amendment.